

## THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR

During the years 1957 and 1958 an unprecedented study of man's physical environment will be undertaken by the nations of the world. Simultaneous investigations will be made all over the world of the earth's interior, its crust and oceans, of the complex atmosphere reaching from the surface to outer space several hundred miles away, and of the sun, which virtually controls life and events on our planet.

Throughout the world some 5,000 scientists and engineers are preparing for this intensive investigation of the earth, the atmosphere, and the sun. This investigation, extending from July 1957 through December 1958, is called the International Geophysical Year. Into those 18 months will be compressed a score or more of years of normal research as scientists attempt to get a unified picture of our physical environment.

During the IGY scientists will explore almost every major land and sea area. They will study the earth's core and crust. They will probe into its interior with explosion sound waves and send rockets and satellites to explore outer space. They will measure the deep ocean currents and the surging tides in the seas. They will observe and measure the many mysterious particles that continually bombard the earth from outer space.

Answers to a thousand questions will be sought. Is the climate of the earth changing? Are glaciers receding? Will melting ice sheets someday flood coastal lands? Where do cosmic rays come from and what is their nature? What causes the aurora? What is the relationship between sunspots and solar flares and long-range radio transmission? These and many other questions are the objectives of the IGY program. They are important to man's understanding of the earth and the universe surrounding him. The answers will provide him not only new basic knowledge but applications in many fields of human activity—from the raising of crops and transpolar air travel to better radio communications and navigation.

At the present time 46 nations are formally participating in the International Geophysical Year: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Chinese Peoples Republic, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (East), Germany (West), Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Union of South Africa, U. S. S. R., United States, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia. An additional 10 to 20 nations are expected to participate or cooperate in the program.